

Remarks

Claims 12 and 16 are amended and claims 11 and 18 are cancelled herein. Upon entry of this amendment claims 1-10 and 12-17 will be pending. Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-10 and 17 in the Office Action. Claims 11-16 and 18 were rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,746,322 (LaVeine) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,484,884 (Gerrity).

The Claims

Claim 12 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 17. Claims 13-15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 12 and are submitted as allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 16 has been amended to include at least some of the patentable features of allowed claim 17. For example, the method of claim 16 now recites, among other things, causing coins to be vibrated along an upper shelf having a first upper shelf portion with perforations smaller than a predetermined minimum diameter of coins and an second upper shelf portion having coin receiving apertures of a transverse dimension larger than a predetermined maximum diameter of coins. Further, amended claim 16 now recites causing coins to pass through the coin receiving apertures onto a lower shelf having perforations smaller than the minimum diameter of coins.

Accordingly, the prior art of record, including LaVeine and Gerrity, fails to show or suggest a method of separating foreign objects from coins as recited in claim 16.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance of claims 1-10 and 12-17, and such action is solicited. If for some reason the Examiner deems that the present application is not in condition for immediate allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at 404-879-2453, in an effort to expedite prosecution.

AMENDMENT B

Title: "Separating Foreign Objects from a Mass of Coins"

Application Serial No: 10/670,111

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for the timely consideration of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 09-0528.

Respectfully submitted,

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